



# G-5's "Eye on AMC"

## U.S. Army Materiel Command

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### **New M1117 armored security vehicle fielded in Iraq**

For Soldiers patrolling the mean streets of Iraq, mobility and armor protection are vital. The Army Field Support Battalion – Iraq, is providing enhanced protection by fielding the new M1117 Armored Security Vehicle directly to troops in combat. The ASV, also known as the Guardian, is an improved means to aid, protect and escort combat logistics and security patrols throughout Iraq.

"Force protection is probably the most crucial benefit of the ASV," said Kenneth Rix, ASV site project manager. "This vehicle has been hit with improvised explosive devices and heavy caliber machine gun rounds and kept moving with no injuries or casualties."

Carrying a three-person crew, the ASV is equipped with a modular, expandable armor system of ceramic composite material on the outside and a small liner on the inside. The vehicle is capable of withstanding heavy caliber armor-piercing rounds. According to Rix, who is deployed from the Program Executive Office – Combat Support and Combat Service Support in Warren, Mich., the ASV is also protected from mine blasts underneath the vehicle.

The Guardian has a firepower deterrent effect and the capability to defeat attacks. Armed with a .50 cal machine gun and a MK19 grenade launcher, the ASV is a force to be reckoned with. Speed is another benefit of the M1117; despite its size, it is capable of achieving speeds up to 63 miles per hour.

Fresh off the assembly line and onto the battlefield, the Guardian is a prime example of Army Materiel Command's commitment to continuously improve support to Soldiers. "By teaming up with Mr. Rix and his group, FSB-IZ is at the tip of the logistics power projection spear," said Lt. Col. Mike Bird, commander of FSB-IZ. "When it leaves our shop, combat ready and in the hands of fully trained Soldiers, the Guardian has an immediate and positive effect on the mission."

### **AMC's band performs for injured Soldiers**

It was as far away from Iraq as one could get, but that was the whole point.

Soldiers from the 389th Army Band, AMC's own, spent April 22 playing jazz for wounded Soldiers at Fran O'Brien's Stadium Steakhouse in Washington, D.C., as a way of giving back to service members who sacrificed so much.

"Playing at this event has been the most rewarding job I've done in (the) three year's I've been in (the Army)," said Sgt. Gabriel Sanchez, piano player for the AMC band.

About 30 injured Soldiers, Marines and their families gathered for an evening of entertainment and food, as a way of momentarily forgetting the hardships and challenges they have endured.

Sgt. 1st Class Norberto Lara, from the 293rd Military Police Company, Fort Ord, Calif., lost his right arm as a result of a rocket propelled grenade attack and is currently recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. "The music sounded great and made the evening more festive," he said.

The event, which is sponsored by private corporations and Fran O'Brien's Stadium Steakhouse, is held every Friday. This is the first time the band played for the wounded service members.

### **Did you know ...**

Brig. Gen. (P) Perry Smith, assistant deputy commanding general, (Army National Guard), AMC, has been confirmed by the senate to the rank of major general.